

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8476

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 18286

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CIVS, TH, BM (U NU)

SUBJECT: STATUS OF U NU'S AIDES IN BANGKOK

REF: STATE 227398

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, WE HAVE QUERIED THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIAL WHO ORIGINALLY NEGOTIATED WITH US U NU'S DEPARTURE FROM THAILAND FOR THE UNITED STATES. HE HAS PROFESSED IGNORANCE REGARDING THE EXACT STATUS AND WHEREABOUTS OF U NU'S AIDES AND FAMILY MEMBERS, BUT PROMISED TO OBTAIN THE INFORMATION FROM THE IMMIGRATION POLICE. HE ALLOWED AS HOW THE RTG WOULD NOT WANT THE AIDES TO REMAIN IN BANGKOK. HE DID NOT APPEAR, HOWEVER, TO HAVE FOCUSED ON THE CASE FOR SOME TIME, AND DID NOT IN ANY WAY INDICATE THAT THE NEW THAI GOVERNMENT WAS PRESSURING FOR U NU'S FAMILY AND AIDES TO LEAVE THAILAND IMMEDIATELY.

2. WE SEPARATELY QUERIED THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER NOVEMBER 23. HE KNEW OF NO DEPORTATION THREATS AGAINST U NU'S THAILAND ENTOURAGE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, WE DREW ON PARAGRAPH TWO
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OF REFTEL TO SAY THAT THE WIFE AND TWO ADOPTED SONS COULD

PROBABLY JOIN U NU IN THE U.S. SHOULD HE APPLY FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE. WE WENT ON TO SAY THAT WE KNEW OF NO WAY THAT THE FIVE AIDES COULD AUTOMATICALLY RIDE U NU'S COATTAILS TO THE U.S. WE SAID WE WOULD CONSIDER VISA APPLICATIONS ON THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL MERITS. WE ALSO STATED THAT ANY VISAS ISSUED TO THE AIDES PRIOR TO U NU'S DEPARTURE FROM THAILAND COULD BE INVALIDATED ON THE GROUNDS THAT CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED AND THAT THE VISAS WOULD NOT NOW BE USED FOR THE TEMPORARY STAY FOR WHICH THEY WERE ISSUED.

4. IN RECALLING THE HISTORY OF THE WHOLE EPISODE, THE MFA OFFICIAL MENTIONED THAT THE RTG HAD WANTED U NU TO LEAVE THAILAND, BUT IT WAS U NU HIMSELF WHO WISHED HIS AIDES TO ACCOMPANY HIM. IN VIEW OF THIS REMARK AND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPHS ONE AND TWO OF REFTTEL, IT APPEARS TO US THAT U NU IS THE ONE TRYING TO GENERATE A SENSE OF URGENCY TO PAVE THE WAY FOR HIS AIDES TO JOIN HIM. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION WE HAVE HERE, THE AIDES' PLIGHT DOES NOT SEEM DIRE.
KINTNER

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